



## **PROGRESS IN HOMELAND SECURITY** **FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**

---

This document provides a brief overview of progress in homeland security activities achieved by the federal government, the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and local jurisdictions in the National Capital Region. While these are not the full complement of activities for each entity, they highlight events, programs, or initiatives advancing homeland security for each governmental authority respectively, but also collectively for the National Capital Region. These are vivid examples of the high degree of spirit at the local, state and federal levels to ensure the safety and security of the citizens of the National Capital Region

The progress activities are categorized along topic areas that will be discussed at the National Capital Region Summit:

- Citizen Involvement in Preparedness
- Decision-making and Coordination
- Emergency Protective Measures
- Infrastructure Protection
- Media Relations and Communication
- Mutual Aid
- Terrorism Prevention
- Training and Exercises

# CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN PREPAREDNESS

---

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- Citizen Corps, coordinated by FEMA, is the component of USA Freedom Corps that creates opportunities for individuals to volunteer to help their communities prepare for and respond to emergencies by bringing together local leaders, citizen volunteers and the network of first responder organizations. The goal is to have all citizens participate in making their communities safer, stronger, and better prepared for preventing and handling threats of terrorism, crime, and disasters of all kinds. The five national Citizen Corps programs are: the Neighborhood Watch program, Community Emergency Response Team, Volunteers in Police Service, Medical Reserve Corps, and Terrorism Information and Prevention System.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- The District strongly supports the Citizen Corps initiative and the five programs being promoted therein by the Office of Homeland Security. The District is currently actively participating in three of these programs (Neighborhood Watch Program, Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), and the Medical Reserve Corps) and is researching opportunities to engage in the remaining two (Terrorism Information and Prevention System (Operation TIPS) and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)).

***District of Columbia Universities.*** The Washington region is home to more than 30 colleges and universities, each with its own individual contingency plans. Colleges and universities are faced with a variety of potential hazardous events that pose risks to the students, faculty, administrative staff, and the institution itself. These institutions develop their own business continuity and disaster response plans, documenting roles and responsibilities, resources, and steps to take in response to an event and to continue operations after an emergency has occurred.

***Non-Profit and Volunteer Organizations.*** District non-profit organizations, national non-profit organizations, and volunteer organizations located in the District are key to supporting primary and support agencies in emergency operations and planning. Activities of these groups include donations management coordination programs, volunteer services, and overall management of the flow of goods and services during disaster response and recovery operations. It is crucial to establish a consistent framework for coordinating with these organizations to support a response. A key organization in this area is





the District of Columbia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (DCVOAD), which coordinates planning efforts by local voluntary organizations that respond to emergencies and disasters.

- The District has held numerous Ward Days throughout the city. These informal community events help prepare community residents to respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters, teach them how to develop a family preparedness plan and inform them about the District Response Plan. The Ward Days also include two training courses: “Basic Emergency Management for the District of Columbia” and “Terrorism: A Citizen’s Awareness”.
- The District of Columbia Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has coordinated its efforts to meet emergency preparedness mission objectives by providing capability and readiness assessments; strategic and operational planning; scenario planning and future search activities focusing on mission readjustment; training and exercise design and implementation; leadership training for emergency management; information management; information system development and maintenance; operation center design and support; mobilization and operational support, crisis communications; and post-incident evaluation. The purpose of these efforts has enhanced the skills, capabilities, and understanding of DC agencies, community groups, schools and business consortiums on matters related to emergency preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery.
- In June 2002, President Bush appointed DC Mayor Anthony Williams to the Homeland Security Advisory Council. Council members will provide input on developing and coordinating the implementation of a comprehensive national strategy to increase U.S. security. The Council was created by Executive Order on March 19, 2002, and its members include representatives of state and local governments, the private and non-profit sectors, and public policy experts.
- The DCEMA website – [dcema.dc.gov](http://dcema.dc.gov) – contains preparedness information, including the District Response Plan (DRP) and the Family Preparedness Guide.
- The District was among the first recipients of federal grants for volunteer service in homeland security. The grants support volunteers active in meeting the public safety, public health, emergency response and disaster preparedness needs of communities around the country. The DC Commission on National and Community Service will use funding to establish a Citizen Corps to provide an organized strategic process for community volunteers to become involved in homeland security efforts.

- DC EMA is in the process of creating all hazards community preparedness plans for each of the District's 39 neighborhood clusters. The city will conduct training for residents on these plans once they are developed.

## **STATE OF MARYLAND**

- Maryland supports its local jurisdictions, which have the lead role in direct citizens' involvement in preparedness, much like the District of Columbia's role. The State provides emergency preparedness materials for terrorism and other disasters to include Masters of Disasters curriculum and materials for schools. Maryland also participates in local community meetings to address citizen awareness and preparedness.
- A Strategic Plan for full Citizen Corps implementation is being developed with the assistance of participants from the Federal Executive Potential Program. This State-Federal partnership will produce a model for the nation. Maryland has supported CERT training before it even became a key component of the President's Citizen Corps Concept. In May, the Governor signed Citations for CERT members during a full-scale exercise for their commitment to emergency management. Maryland is also currently active in Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers in Police Service, and the Medical Reserve Corps.
- At the State level, citizens are members of the Security Council, the Maryland Terrorism Forum, the Governor's Emergency Management Advisory Council and the State Emergency Response Commission to ensure involvement in preparedness.
- The Maryland Emergency Management Agency website includes emergency preparedness and terrorism-related information so that citizens can stay informed and involved.
- State volunteer organizations are key to supporting response and recovery activities through the Maryland Organizations Active in Disasters (MDVOAD). They participate in our Emergency Operations Center and coordinate with corresponding organizations or chapters at the local level.

## **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

- The Commonwealth has initiated an aggressive program of citizen involvement with community preparedness and that we expect a major initiative supported by the Governor to implement Citizen Corps. This activity runs the gamut from development of an interactive Web site to full development of community programs. While some of the activities are still in development, the Governor has a sub panel of the Secure Virginia





Initiative that is focused on community outreach and citizen involvement with protecting Virginians, their communities and their way of life.

- The emergency management Web site has been expanded to include terrorism preparedness “tool kit” as well as suggestions for general preparedness. It will have alert status and suggested protective measures as it becomes more mature.
- The emergency management Web site has an extensive question and answer section that addresses frequently asked questions of citizens and serves as a resource for public inquiry.
- CERT training was initiated this summer with 150 local program administrators and trainers projected to be trained by the end of August.
- Governor Mark Warner has established a 22-member Secure Virginia Initiative Panel, led by the Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness, John Hager. The Secure Virginia Panel has conducted four official meetings to date. The initial two meetings were designed to establish the foundation for the panel’s overall effort, provide a consistent level of understanding concerning threats facing the Commonwealth as well as the structure for responding to and recovering from emergencies and disasters. Two meetings of the full panel were dedicated to functional areas being considered by the various sub-panels: transportation and cyber/technology and critical infrastructure issues. The panel convened the Secure Virginia Initiative Forum, held in Richmond on April 3rd. In attendance were over 250 professionals representing the key stakeholder groups: Emergency Management, Fire, Emergency Medical Services, Law Enforcement, Financial Services, Health Care, Technology, Transportation, Utility, and Agriculture. The panel has been instructed to provide quarterly reports to the Governor on the progress of its efforts, with final recommendations due by February 2003. In its July 30th Progress Report, the panel made six recommendations, all of which, are supported by Governor Warner:

1. Background Checks for Public Sector Employees in Sensitive Positions - Most local government and state agency organizations do not require criminal background checks for employees, with exception of those in law enforcement related positions. Consequently, individuals hired to perform activities at critical government facilities such as transportation centers, water filtration plants, or electric distribution stations may be hired with only the normal hiring screening process. Governor Warner has approved the concept, requested by several local governments, to provide for criminal background checks for sensitive positions in state and local government. The proposal will be developed in accordance with applicable federal guidelines to allow for part of the screening to include National Crime Information Center checks.

2. Employer Validation of Foreign Workers Eligibility - The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Employment Eligibility Verification form can be better monitored. If the documents do not appear genuine or do not appear to relate to the individual presenting them, Virginia employers can play a key role in validating them. Governor Warner has directed the Virginia Cooperative Extension and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to provide relevant training.
3. Emergency Alert System Enhancements - The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is the current version of the former Emergency Broadcast System (EBS), which was developed and designed during the Cold War era to allow the President of the United States to communicate directly with Americans in a national emergency. The activation of the system for non-Presidential emergencies is, however, strictly voluntary on the part of broadcasters. A method to rapidly activate and disseminate a state-level or statewide EAS message to the state primary station, state relay stations, each local operational area primary station, and each of five National Weather Service offices serving Virginia is required to ensure that Presidential and Gubernatorial EAS messages can be effectively transmitted. Governor Warner has approved the first phase of a plan to provide satellite-based emergency messaging system that provides the capability to transmit an EAS message to an individual station or a group of stations, simultaneously and instantaneously. Federal funding will support this effort.
4. Permanent Web site for Communicating with the Public During Disasters - Virginia needs a single information source where citizens and media can go 24 hours a day to learn about terrorism preparedness and what to do in the event of a disaster or an attack. Governor Warner has approved the use of federal funds to upgrade <http://www.vaemergency.com/>.
5. Improvements to Information Technology Security - Failure to prevent or to contain unauthorized intrusions into computer systems in the Commonwealth can potentially result in the breakdown of emergency communications, financial loss, degraded customer services, loss of public confidence, and non-compliance with state and federal statutes. Governor Warner has approved the initiation of a training program to establish a statewide information security structure.
6. Medical Emergency Preparedness Authority - Governor Warner is asking the Attorney General to provide an opinion on whether the Commonwealth of Virginia has sufficient legal authority to respond to a public health emergency in the following ways:





suspend health professional licensure requirements, enforce quarantines, and publicly take private medical personnel and supplies for emergency response.

- Effective outreach has been a focal point of the Secure Virginia efforts. In addition to an April 3rd Forum, the office has participated in more than 200 meetings and appearances with constituent groups, informing constituents to reduce fear and raise awareness and positioning Virginia communities and businesses to capitalize on federal funding opportunities. Efforts are progressing to outline a viable approach to implementing the USA Freedom Corps initiative in Virginia.
- Due to its public safety value, a guidebook originally designed for [Public Information Center](#) staff to answer questions about terrorism preparedness and response is now available to citizens via the Virginia Department of Emergency Management's Web site. Other enhancements to the website include "Keys to Terrorism Preparedness" and the current "National Terrorism Threat Level" with explanation of the threat level and corresponding response activities.

## DECISION-MAKING AND COORDINATION

---

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- The Federal Emergency Decision and Notification Protocol provides information for the coordination of the release of federal employees following an incident involving a Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD) or an impending WMD event. This plan discusses the gathering of information, information verification, and official notification.
- The Emergency Response Team for the National Capital Region (ERT-NCR) is comprised of Washington Area representatives from key agencies. In the event of an emergency in the National Capital Region, an Emergency Response Team Leader will meet with the DC EMA Director and Staff, or MD or VA if the affected site is located there and will deploy the ERT-NCR to an Initial Operating Facility. Staff from the District, Virginia or Maryland can co-locate at the Initial Operating Facility as necessary.

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Immediately after September 11, DC Mayor Anthony Williams convened an interagency domestic Preparedness Task Force to examine the city's overall preparedness, existing emergency plans and procedures and related training efforts to determine short- and long-term action recommendations. Its membership included directors of District agencies that have a role in planning for, responding to or recovering from any emergency affecting the District of Columbia. The task force has evolved into a permanent Emergency Preparedness Council that includes among its members directors of the lead District agencies defined in the DRP, businesses, schools and universities and local utility companies. The EPC provides a framework to support the city's ongoing effort to develop preparedness policy and coordinate preparedness activities in the District.
- An Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee of the DC White House Task Force was created to coordinate governance and incident management in planning, response and coordination of federal and local emergency response, and the bio-terrorism plan for the District. This includes the synchronization of the District's plans with others in the National Capital Region, and the development of an integrated expedited commuter release plan.
- The District is also a member along with 16 other jurisdictions of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). The District government has participated in the development of the COG Regional







Emergency Coordination Plan (RECP). The RECP was created to facilitate communication and coordination among the COG members in a regional emergency. The District of Columbia Emergency Management Agency serves as the interim Regional Incident Communications and Coordination System (RICCS) lead for that plan.

## **STATE OF MARYLAND**

- Maryland has extensive experience with coordinated decision-making across jurisdictional lines through Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) exercises and weather events. Thus, procedures and communications means, such as the Washington Area Alert and Warning System (WAWAS) are in place.
- The Maryland Terrorism Forum (MTF) is an advisory body convened by the Governor in 1998. It reviews areas of concern and makes recommendations to the Governor through the Office of the Chief of Staff. It is co-chaired by the Secretary of the Department of State Police and the Adjutant General of Maryland. Other members of the MTF include representatives from transportation, health and medical hygiene, police, fire, EMS, the Maryland Association of Counties, and municipal representatives.
- The 15-member Maryland Security Council is an advisory council composed of representatives from federal, state, county, and municipal governments, as well as businesses and the general community reviewing all emergency planning in the state and making recommendations to the Governor.
- Recent legislation on the Governor's Emergency Powers was passed. This law specifies the Governor's authority under specified circumstances; requiring specified state or local law enforcement officers and health officers to execute and enforce specified orders, rules, and regulations made by the Governor under specified circumstances; requiring specified state officials to carry out the Governor's policies; authorizing the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to perform specified duties under specified circumstances; etc.

## **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

- The Commonwealth Preparedness Working Group, comprised of key state agencies involved in preparedness response and recovery, was established to assist in state terrorism preparedness. This group of key decision makers evaluates requirements and recommends priorities for the activities that must take place in state operations. The group is being expanded to include selected industry representatives.

- The Commonwealth has developed a state level terrorism consequence management plan that describes operational concepts and assigns responsibilities to key agencies. The Commonwealth remains supportive and is participating with the Washington DC Council of Governments in their notable efforts to help facilitate the development of a Regional Emergency Coordination Plan and Regional Emergency Coordination System in support of established emergency management structures. The Commonwealth's focus remains on ensuring bottom-up planning with communities that is effectively integrated into established processes for managing emergencies and disasters.
- A business recovery/resumption plan for state agencies has been developed and updated. This plan identifies the key business functions that must be continued/reconstituted/protected and describes agency methods and procedures.
- By coordinating many of the post Pentagon attack anthrax activities, a lessons learned and more functional protocol for responders has been developed. This activity can save time and prevent needless, unfounded actions that neither evaluate nor protect citizen exposure. The education that resulted makes Virginia better prepared to deal with a wide spectrum of bio-terrorism activities.
- Virginia participated in development of *Planning Guidance for the Health System to a Bio-event in the National Capital Region* an initiative of the Washington DC Council of Governments.
- In addition to the Governor's Secure Virginia Initiative Panel, regional terrorism/homeland security workshops for senior local officials have been conducted. These workshops have provided localities with opportunities to work with their senior management team in a non-threatening environment to hone their decision-making skills.
- The Commonwealth has participated in planning for and conducting multiple national level exercises which enhance regional and national preparedness. These exercises have ranged from full scale to regional workshops including the key personnel required for action.
- The Commonwealth has developed, delivered and evaluated a full spectrum of terrorism event management training ranging from basic awareness, to technical response, to tactical considerations to incident management. This training has included participants from all elements of first responders (fire, police, EMS, Public Works, Transportation) and provided an opportunity of a look at integrated requirements.
- Multiple stakeholders forums and planning sessions have been conducted with local officials, captains of industry, the military and key state





decision makers. These sessions have provided the backdrop for prioritization of action, procurement, training, and exercising.

- The Commonwealth has developed strategies for regional response and incident management. These strategies include regional team concepts, common equipment, mutual aid, medical surveillance and protection, infrastructure protection, vulnerability analysis, capability assessments and critical facility/node protection.

# EMERGENCY PROTECTIVE MEASURES

---

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- The NCR National Pharmaceutical Stockpile Task Force, which comprises representation from primary and local jurisdictions, has developed the *National Capital Region Plan for Receiving and Distributing the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile* and continues to work on the design of an effective command structure.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- The DC Omnibus Anti-Terrorism Act, Bill 14-373 is the District's main piece of legislation to respond to homeland security issues. It defines crimes and establishes penalties for an act of terrorism. There are also provisions that address the liability of first responders and other persons providing service during an emergency situation, and enable medical personnel to act swiftly and more effectively in a disaster situation. The Act authorizes the Mayor to issue an executive order proclaiming a health emergency and relieves private physicians of liability for negligent medical treatment at the scene of an accident. The Act gives certified emergency medical technicians/paramedics the authority to administer controlled substances under the direction and supervision of a licensed physician. In the event of a bio-terrorism event, the Act authorizes the Mayor to take emergency action to detain persons believed to be affected by communicable diseases that threaten the general public.
- In October EMA created a Family Preparedness Guide describing what individual citizens can do to prepare themselves and their families in case of a public emergency. The guide includes tips for creating an emergency plan and "go-kit," pre-designating locations for the family to meet if they are split up, and what to do with a pet in an emergency. The guide also provides methods and resources for dealing with emotional reactions and stress related to the incident. Important numbers for obtaining District government services is also included. The guide was translated into seven languages:
  - Arabic
  - Chinese
  - Farsi
  - French
  - Korean
  - Spanish
  - Vietnamese

EMA is currently coordinating the production of the guide in Braille. The guide was provided to libraries, community centers, and schools, and in December was included as a special insert in the Washington Post.





Through a cooperative effort with the Post, a copy of the guide was mailed to each District resident.

- The District is beginning the implementation of a CERT program. Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs. The District Program will present citizens the facts about what to expect following a major disaster in terms of immediate services; give the message about their responsibility for mitigation and preparedness; train them in needed life saving skills with emphasis on decision making skills, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number; and organize teams so that they are an extension of first responder services offering immediate help to victims until professional services arrive.

#### **STATE OF MARYLAND**

- Maryland has used emergency protective measures from the Chemical Stockpile Emergency preparedness program (CSEPP) and Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) as the basis for developing appropriate protective actions and parallel supporting actions for weapons of mass destruction terrorism incidents.
- On April 9, 2002, the Catastrophic Health Emergencies legislation became law. This emergency bill authorizes the Governor to proclaim a catastrophic health emergency if the Governor determines that exposure to a “deadly agent” present an imminent threat of extensive loss of life or serious disability to persons in the State. Under such a proclamation, the Governor may order the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) or other official, to use appropriate means to reduce morbidity and mortality caused by the emergency and to ensure that all persons exposed to a deadly agent are subject to appropriate treatment and control. The bill requires DHMH to create a Catastrophic Health Emergency Disease Surveillance Program and submit a report on the program’s implementation and operation to the General Assembly.
- The Agriculture/Infectious and Contagious Diseases Act became law on April 9, 2002. This act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to apply for an administrative search warrant to enter property to test for infectious and contagious livestock and poultry diseases. The Secretary must show that there is probable cause to believe that an infectious and contagious livestock and poultry disease is present on the property. The Secretary must also show that the property owner either cannot be located or has refused entrance onto the property for testing purposes.

## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

- The Commonwealth has begun enhanced legislation for the protection of critical information. This legislation begins the protection of critical infrastructure information so that, through nefarious means, individuals are prevented from routinely obtaining general information on the state infrastructure. The state has also passed and implemented state specific criminal statutes relating to terrorist activities.
- Templates which can guide leaders and managers in their protective action decision-making have been developed. These templates aid in assessments and prioritization and can serve not only as time savers, but also multipliers in effectiveness.
- State level laboratory capabilities and epidemiology expertise and capability have been enhanced by additional resourcing and distribution of assets. These enhancements improve state capabilities to speed initial evaluations, prioritize assets and initiate appropriate treatment and corrective action. The Commonwealth is also working with state level agencies, professional associations and communities to develop a viable plan to ensure the ability to effectively distribute at the local level the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile should the need arise.
- The established web based information system on protective action through a variety of Web sites has enhanced overall capabilities.
- Plans for new state operational facilities are nearing completion that will enhance emergency management preparedness, response recovery, and remediation integration at critical junctures.
- Law enforcement equipment, intelligence gathering and sharing, increased training, fusion and integration, and threat assessment and protection are at an all time high. The determination and cooperation is a direct result of their comprehensive and integrated approach to all aspects of law enforcement.





# INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

---

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- An overarching National Strategy for Homeland Security with forthcoming Cyber and Physical security strategies have been created in partnership with private industry. The Cyber strategy (expected release in September 2002) will have a compendium of all Critical Infrastructure Sectors own analysis of their sectors along with a document that summarizes commonalities between the sectors.
- The FBI's NIPC has increased cooperation with private industry ISACs, which are maturing and new ones continue to be discussed.
- The new Transportation Security Administration and proposed Department of Homeland Security will play pivotal roles in federal CIP activities.
- Executive Order 13231 established the President's Critical Infrastructure Protection Board to coordinate cyber-related federal efforts and programs associated with protecting our nation's critical infrastructures. The Special Advisor to the President for Cyberspace Security chairs the board. Executive Order 13231 tasks the board with recommending policies and coordinating programs for protecting CIP-related information systems.

## STATE OF MARYLAND

- Each county and major city conducted vulnerability surveys on state, local and private infrastructures and identified areas that require additional security measures. There is an initiative to further refine vulnerable targets within the state and to take appropriate measures to decrease that vulnerability.
- Established Cyber Terrorism Committee to reinvigorate lessons learned preparing for Y2K to include risk assessment and continuity of operations plans. It is also connected with State Police and FBI on cyber attacks.
- Legislation on access to public records/public security documents recently passed. The access authorizes a custodian to deny inspection of a public record that contains information disclosing or relating to public security if the custodian determines that inspection of the information would constitute a risk to the public or to public security. The custodian must determine that the record would jeopardize the security of any structure owned or operated by the State or its political subdivisions; facilitate the

planning of a terrorist attack; or endanger the life or physical safety of an individual.

## **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

- Through law enforcement and the Governor's panel for the Secure Virginia Initiative, critical infrastructure is being evaluated to update vulnerability assessments and prioritize corrective actions. These activities include representatives from cyber, telecommunications, and all utilities in determining the best methods for information sharing and resource allocation between communities, state agencies and the private sector.
- The state has identified over 4,200 critical facilities and sites and is in the process of sector characterization, including Northern Virginia. Our broader identification of critical facilities, the prioritization of activities for protection and reconstitution is ongoing. This activity will lessen the confusion and speed the decision activity during a crisis. It also serves all hazard response activities across the full spectrum.
- The implementation of a re-evaluated COOP and COG requirement has focused attention on potential legislation requirements as well as the need for upgraded facilities and restructured organizations. These activities are being addressed and refined in the Governor's sub panels of the Secure Virginia Initiative.







## MEDIA RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

---

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- Monitoring groups have been developed to closely track the content of websites to ensure that sensitive information is not posted. Information deemed sensitive, such as building floor plans, has been removed.

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- To ensure a common message and language during a disaster, the Joint Information Center (JIC) will be staffed with representatives from several District agencies including the Mayor's office. To ensure that the personnel in the JIC have the tools and knowledge to work with others in the JIC during a public emergency, the District has developed two courses.
- The JIC training is a four-hour course designed to familiarize DC Agency Public Information Officers with the operations of a Joint Information Center. The course, developed by DC EMA, is a game plan for conducting crisis communications during emergency responses and other situations in which multiple District of Columbia government agencies will need to collaborate and provide accurate, timely and useful information to the citizens of the Washington DC metropolitan area and the news media.
- The Media Relations course is a four-hour course designed to provide attendees with a review of some basic media relations techniques. It covers strategic messaging, mental and physical preparations for media interviews, and maintaining a good working relationship with the news media.

### STATE OF MARYLAND

- Fundamental understanding and the ability to implement the lines of coordination for public information also known as the Joint Information System (JIS). The objective of the system is to coordinate the content and release of timely and accurate information to the public with the goal of keeping them informed and encouraging them to take appropriate actions that will save lives during emergencies or disasters. A Standard Operating Procedure has been written to address the function of the State's Joint Information Center (JIC), which functions under JIS. The State JIC is co-located with the State Emergency Operations Center.

- The JIS coordination is practiced during exercises and has been implemented during disasters and emergencies in the state. Support for JIS has taken many different modes. Coordination between State and local PIOs is accomplished even down to the first responder level. Federal public affairs personnel are included when appropriate. We have sent State PIOs to assist counties without PIO support of their own. We have sent State PIOs to assist counties with PIOs who were overwhelmed by the media response to the incident. We also have practiced the rapid establishment of near site media centers with federal, state and local PIOs during Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program and Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program exercises.
- While coordinating public information among contiguous states and the District of Columbia is a standard practice when the region is threatened by severe storm events or an accident involving hazmat or a nuclear power plant, we are trying to firm up lines of coordination between PIOs from Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia as well as PIOs from Maryland's suburban counties to ensure that all modes of communications and coordination are identified. Estimated completion date is September 2002.

#### **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

- The Commonwealth has established a Joint Information Center concept for events in Virginia. This activity will provide the capability to speak with one voice and provide the best information possible to the public in a coordinated mode. It also provides a single point for media to obtain the most recent and accurate information vital to citizens.
- The concept for a call center and Web based information dissemination process for citizens during an event has been developed. This activity is part of a larger effort to ensure information is available quickly for general use. It also provides opportunity to tailor information for victims, responders, and decision makers at all levels.
- There is considerable effort ongoing in media relation activities during terrorism response. The Commonwealth has developed and is delivering training and outreach programs to the media and responders on response strategies and related activities and information. This activity enhances our ability to deliver the correct message and at the same time build media/responder relationships.





## MUTUAL AID

---

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Through legislation recently passed by the City Council, the District formally entered the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) along with 43 other states and Puerto Rico. This emergency assistance network will enable the District to participate in regional preparedness exercises, and benefit from personnel and resource aid in the event of an emergency. While the District has mutual aid agreements with Maryland and Virginia, participating in the Compact will enable the District to draw from a larger pool of resources should a disaster occur.

### STATE OF MARYLAND

- The Maryland EMAC was recently passed. This compact provides for mutual assistance between local jurisdictions entering into this compact in managing an emergency. Addresses such issues as requests for emergency assistance, reimbursement and liability. This legislation is enabling only and must be adopted by participating local jurisdictions.
- Maryland has been a signatory to the EMAC, the lead State for EMAC coordination and has deployed personnel via EMAC to Florida, North Carolina, Montana and to New York City in the aftermath of September 11.

### COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

- The Commonwealth has developed and fielded a statewide mutual aid program, which permits all localities in the state to formally participate in intra-state mutual aid. This activity provides the framework for common items, services, and skills to be provided in a mutual aid form. It also permits a common, agreed upon description of the provisions and the timeframe for requirements. Most localities in the state now participate.
- Locally based specialized mutual aid teams have been organized that can be sent to any area of the state as a state resource. These teams add an exponential capability to quick, qualified response with certified personnel.
- Virginia was the leader in development of the EMAC, an inter-state mutual aid program. Virginia continues to champion the program and participate regularly when other member states are in need.
- Recent successful EMAC deployments include deployments to Mississippi and West Virginia.

# TERRORISM PREVENTION

---

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- In response to the threat of terrorism within the United States, the Office of Homeland Security and Homeland Security Council by the President under Executive Order for Homeland Defense. The Congress is in the process of establishing the Department of Homeland Security as Cabinet level federal agency, which will cause the largest federal government re-organization in over 50 years.
- The United States Attorney Offices with jurisdictions in the National Capital Region have all established Anti-Terrorism Task Forces that coordinate policy and information among key law enforcement entities and Joint-Terrorism Task Forces that support anti-terrorist tactical operations. The United States Attorney Office for Northern Virginia has also had a leading role in prosecuting suspected terrorists.

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- In the aftermath of huge losses sustained by the insurance industry after September 11, companies in the District of Columbia sought approval for terrorism exclusions in commercial forms. The District Department of Insurance and Securities Regulation approved certain limited exclusions for acts of terrorism and provided a voluntary procedure for insurers to use to expedite filing and timely review of the limited exclusions. The policy was created to balance the needs of insurers to have some certainty related to solvency concerns with the business consumers' concerns that their businesses are not subject to uninsured events.

## STATE OF MARYLAND

- Maryland has a statewide Terrorism Network coordinated by the State Police in cooperation with the Baltimore FBI Office. This network includes all law enforcement organizations in Maryland for the purpose of sharing intelligence.
- The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Baltimore Region (the entire State) leads the Anti-Terrorism Task Force, which includes first responders to further ensure that appropriate and necessary information is distributed.
- The Baltimore Field Office of the FBI leads a Joint Terrorism Task Force, which is an interagency task force to combat terrorism.





- Legislation on the Maryland Security Protection Act was passed on April 25, 2002. This legislation expands the jurisdiction of the Transportation Authority Police, authorizes security badges at airports, and increases the penalties for fraudulently obtaining a commercial driver's license. It provides an exception to the requirement that a specified description be provided in order to obtain a judicial order relating to wire, oral, and electronic communications under specified circumstances; expanding and altering provisions of law relating to pen registers and trap and trace devices; requiring specified security officers to notify and release specified persons to specified law enforcement agencies; making the Act an emergency measure; etc.

### **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

- Virginia continues its participation in Regional Terrorism Task Force activities as well as Regional U.S. Attorney Task Forces.
- The Commonwealth has revalidated threats, targets, vulnerabilities and capabilities. This is a continuing process to shore up weakness and to expand strengths. By virtue of local and state attention to this activity, preparedness levels have been on the increase. The state is working in close partnership with the private sector to accomplish this effort.
- The Commonwealth has increased their strength in overt and covert intelligence operations, through partnerships between state and local law enforcement agencies. By increasing and improving their coordination with localities and their local law enforcement agencies, there is a much greater sense of effectiveness and preparedness. With special federal funding the state is in the process of fielding with communities a computerized interactive intelligence sharing program that allows cross jurisdictional and state level coordination of intelligence and criminal tips.

## TRAINING AND EXERCISES

---

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Prior to September 11, 2001, the District participated in many exercises and training activities throughout the region. Since September the District has stepped up training and exercises, developing a comprehensive program that includes training with surrounding jurisdictions, the federal government, and private and non-profit organizations. The District has committed to at least two large exercises each year—one full field and one tabletop exercise.
- Recent training and exercises the District has participated in:

The District periodically conducts “no-notice” drills for key agency leaders to practice responding to notification of an emergency.

In March the District participated in the fourth annual Senior Leaders’ Seminar hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The seminar focused on the uniqueness of implementing response plans for all levels of government in the metropolitan Washington area. The scenario involved a weapons of mass destruction incident, and local, state, and federal agencies examined interdependencies and areas of preparedness in which improvement is needed.

The District of Columbia Emergency Management Agency held a Bioterrorism Workshop on May 29, 2002 in Washington, DC. Over two hundred (200) representatives from the District of Columbia, the States of Maryland and Virginia, federal agencies, health and medical agencies, private healthcare providers, and other non-governmental organizations met to focus on planning for and responding to a bioterrorism event in the metropolitan DC area. The overall exercise objective was to sharpen the participant’s awareness of the operational issues that local and national-level authorities will confront in the event of a terrorist incident involving a biological device. The morning plenary session features presentations by national experts on topics related to bioterrorism, followed by an afternoon exercise that required participants to respond to a scenario in which a bioterrorism event occurs in the District of Columbia. The primary focus of the exercise was to foster discussions among the functional area organizations of city, region, or national government in order to gain a full understanding of the complexities which must be addressed in the decision making processes of a WMD incident.

In June, the District participated in a workshop designed to familiarize participants with the different response plans that are implemented in the





National Capital Region, including local cities and counties, the District, the states of Maryland and Virginia, and the federal government. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) hosted the Familiarization Workshop in cooperation with the Office of Homeland Security (OHS), the FEMA, the District of Columbia Emergency Management Agency, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, and the Board of Trade/Potomac Conference Emergency Preparedness Task Force. The workshop, held on June 6, 2002, in Washington DC, provided participants with the opportunity to become familiar with the communications and planning foundation for regional emergencies. The workshop consisted of the following six separate panels, each dealing with different aspects of emergency planning in the metropolitan Washington area: local, state, regional, federal, non-terrorism nuclear biological chemical incident, and terrorism.

#### **STATE OF MARYLAND**

- In the past four years, the State of Maryland has participated in over forty terrorism drills and exercises. These exercises covered all formats (drills, awareness, tabletop, functional, field) with the seven primary response functions (fire, EMS, hazmat, LE, Public Health, Public Works, and Emergency Management) at the Federal, Regional, State and Local levels. These exercises included a joint field exercise with the District of Columbia (NCR 2000) as well as field exercise with the hospital community (most recently Free State Response 2002 involving the University of Maryland Medical System, the United States Air Force, the Maryland National Guard, and the City of Baltimore). The State of Maryland has also provided extensive support to exercises in neighboring states and within the State, serving as designers, controllers, and evaluators.
- Maryland has a robust training system, which is coordinated through the Maryland Terrorism Forum. Using the Maryland Fire Rescue Institute, Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission, and other avenues, more than 20,000 response personnel in the State of Maryland have been trained to respond to a terrorist incident involving a weapon of mass destruction.
- The State of Maryland, under the Maryland Terrorism Forum Training Committee, has developed a set of concise, effective, training standards for measuring the capability of personnel to respond effectively to a weapon of mass destruction. Courses are now being identified which meet those standards and efforts are underway to examine certification.
- The State of Maryland is now establishing a committee under the Maryland Terrorism Forum to focus specifically on exercise coordination

and standards. One of the stated projects of this group is the development of comprehensive exercise program design guidance, to include corrective action planning.

## **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

- Virginia Public Safety agencies have trained approximately 10,000 first responders throughout the Commonwealth on terrorism awareness, operations, and management considerations since 1996. This year more than 3,000 first responders are expected to attend one or more of these courses. In addition, Virginia has sent 4250 responders through the Federal Domestic Preparedness consortium since 1998. The Commonwealth is in the process of developing, as part of existing certification programs, training standards related to Homeland Security.
- The state has created a Statewide Terrorism Training Consortium to facilitate and coordinate Terrorism training within State agencies. This information has been placed on the Virginia Department of Emergency Management web page along with a training calendar to facilitate "one-stop-shopping for first responders" that are looking for training information. The Commonwealth is also working to increase the number of Terrorism Instructors in the areas of Emergency Medical Services and law enforcement.
- In addition to the terrorism-specific training, Virginia has aggressively pursued hazardous materials training for first responders throughout Virginia. Currently there are more than 50,000 awareness-level trained responders from fire, law enforcement, and emergency medical services; 3,000 operations-trained fire fighters; and nearly 500 technician and specialist-level responders.
- Virginia has developed several courses for the news media and local Public Information Officers to help with the flow of "correct" information.
- All of the first responders (Arlington County Fire Department, Alexandria Fire Department, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Fairfax County Fire-Rescue Department) to the September 11th Pentagon incident were trained through agencies of Virginia's Public Safety secretariat.
- During the past year Virginia distributed more than \$10 million in direct grants to Virginia localities for basic fire-rescue training, equipment and programs.
- Virginia's Public Safety agencies partnered with the International Association of Fire Fighters to deliver basic, first responder operations-level hazardous materials training in Virginia using federal grant monies







from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS).

- Community Emergency Response Team training was initiated this summer with 150 local program administrators and trainers projected to be trained by the end of August.

This page intentionally left blank.

